



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,168	09/26/2005	Lisa A Grems	209546-86427	2947
44200	7590	11/12/2009		
HONIGMAN MILLER SCHWARTZ & COHN LLP			EXAMINER	
38500 WOODWARD AVENUE			LEE, EDMUND H	
SUITE 100			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5048			1791	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/12/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/517,168	Applicant(s) GREMS ET AL.
	Examiner EDMUND H. LEE	Art Unit 1791

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2009.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 20,21,23,25-35,37 and 40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 20-21,23,25,26-35,37,40 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 20-21,23,25,26-35, 37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hein (USPN 6737596) in view of Filion et al (USPN 5448028). In regard to claim 20, Hein teaches all of the claimed limitations (col 3, lns 40-61; col 7, ln 8-col 8, ln 35; fig 4d-e and 5) except a bezel and switch assembly that is integral with an armrest of an interior trim door panel of a vehicle. It should be noted that Hein teach molding a bezel and switch assembly for any appropriate switch (col 3, lns 40-61; col 7, ln 8-col 8, ln 35; fig 4d-e and 5). Filion et al teach a bezel and switch assembly that is integral with an armrest of an interior door panel of a vehicle (figs 1-2). Since Hein and Filion et al are analogous with respect to bezel/switch assemblies, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the bezel/switch assembly of Hein in the environment of Filion et al in order to diversify its use. In regard to claims 21, 25, 32, 33, and 37, such are taught by the above combination of Hein and Filion et al. In regard to claim 23, such is well-known in the door panel art in order to produce functional switches. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the claimed circuit assembly into the bezel/switch assembly of Hein (modified) in order to produce functional switches. In regard to claims 26,28,29,30,31, and 40, such are

taught by (col 3, lns 40-61; col 7, ln 8-col 8, ln 35; fig 4d-e and 5). In regard to claim 27, the use of a specific mold is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on mold equipment availability and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, the claimed mold is well-known in the molding arts. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed mold in the process of Hein in order to reduce cycle time without compromising quality. In regard to 34, the use of a specific material is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on the desired final product and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, the claimed materials are well-known in the switch and molding arts. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed material in the process of Hein (modified) in order to produce diverse products. In regard to claim 35, such is well-known in the switch art in order to produce identifiable switches. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to produce identifying markings on the covers of Hein (modified) in order to make the switches of Hein (modified) easily identifiable.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USPN 6093900 teach two shot injection molding of switches.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 1791

571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY
FROM 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571.272.1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

EHL
/EDMUND H. LEE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791